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CENTRAL FAX CENTER**JAN 09 2007****Remark**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claims 1, 10 and 16 have been amended. Claims 2, 11, 17 have been canceled.

Therefore, claims 1, 3-10, 12-16 and 18-22 are now presented for examination.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection*Sharon in view of Nelson*

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14-18, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sharon et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,205,122 ("Sharon"), in view of Nelson et al., U.S. Patent 5,835,720 ("Nelson"). Claims 1, 10 and 16 are amended to incorporate the limitations of Claims 2, 11, and 17, respectively. Claims 2, 11, and 17 have been addressed by the Examiner, previously so that these amendments raise no new issues for consideration or search.

The recitation from Claims 2, 11, and 17 has been augmented to clarify that the policy server and the third network device are different. This has been the natural interpretation of this recitation all along. The policy server and third network device have different names and are invoked in different operations to perform different functions. The title of the application includes network topology discover. The identifying step of e.g. Claim 1 is about discovering the address of the second network device. If this address is already known to the policy server, then there is little point in having it be discovered independently. It could simply be provided by the policy server along with the policies.

The Examiner has relied on the "friend" assignment in Sharon for receiving discovery policies, and for identifying the second network device. This requires both operations of the claim with both devices to read on the same operation in the reference.

In addition, the Examiner has relied on the interactions between an agent and a CME for essentially all of the limitations of e.g. Claim 1. However, as stated at Column 10, lines 25-27, the agent listens for commands from the CME. This is in contrast to the operations of e.g. Claim 1, in which the network device registers, receives policies, and then operates in accordance with the policies.

For these reasons, among others, the claims are believed to be allowable over the cited combination.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

Sharon, Nelson, Aggarwal, and Fishler

The Examiner has rejected claims 5, 9, 16, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over ("Sharon"), ("Nelson"), and in further view of Aggarwal, U.S. Patent No. 5,675,741 ("Aggarwal") or Fishler, U.S. Patent No. 6,507,646 ("Fishler"). These rejection rely on the rejection discussed above and may be traversed on the same grounds, among others. They are not discussed in this response in the interests of focusing on the more fundamental issues in this application.

**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****JAN 09 2007****Conclusion**

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome by the amendment and remark, and that the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims as amended be allowed.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

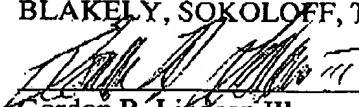
Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 9, 2007


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